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UPSC-CSE

PRELIMS+MAINS

ENGLISH MEDIUM

General Study Paper–1

Part -2

ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL HISTORY OF INDIA

PREFACE

Dear Aspirants, The Presented Notes "**UPSC – CSE (PRE + MAINS)**" have been prepared by a team of teachers, colleagues and Infusion Notes members who are expert in various subjects. These notes will help the Aspirants to the fullest extent possible in the examination of Civil Services conducted by the **UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (UPSC).**

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Publisher: -

INFUSION NOTES

Jaipur, 302029 (RAJASTHAN)

Mob. : 9887809083

Email: contact@infusionnotes.com

Website: http://www.infusionnotes.com

WhatsApp करें - https://wa.link/v3yx0t

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CHAPTER - 3

INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION (IVC) - 3300-1400 BC

Introduction

- The Indus Valley civilization was protohistoric and bronze age urban civilization. In 1826 Charles Masson, an adventurer, stood on the mounds of Harappa. A few years later, a traveler named Alexander Bumes visited Harappa, but was clueless about its significance.
- In the 1850s Harappa was visited by Alexander Cunningham, a military engineer of East India Company. He conducted a small excavation, but was not impressed. When he revisited Harappa in 1872 as Director General of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), he found the mounds badly disturbed by railway contractors. He found stone tools and ancient pottery.
- In 1921, Days Ram Sahn started excavations at Harappa and in 1922 R.D. Banerji started excavating Mohenjodaro. The formal announcement of the discovery of the Indus or Harappan civilization was made in 1924 by Jotin Marshall, Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India.
- The Indus valley civilization is also called the Harappan culture. Archaeologists use the term "culture" for a group of objects, distinctive in style, that are usually found together within a specific geographical area and period of time In the case of the Harappan culture, these. distinctive objects include seals, beads, weights, stone: blades and even baked bricks. These objects were found from areas as far apart as Afghanistan, Jammu, Balochistan (Pakistan) and Gujarat.
- Named after Harappa, the first site where this unique culture was discovered, the civilization is dated between c. 2600 and 1900 BCE. There were earlier and later cultures, often called Early Harappan and Late Harappan, in the same area. The Harappan civilization is sometimes called the Mature Harappan culture to distinguish it from these cultures.

(a) Early Harappan Phase (c. 3200-2600 B.C.)- It was the formative, proto-urban phase. eg Padri (Gujarat),Dholavira
(Kutch), Harappa (Pakistan). Balakot, Amri and Bhirrana (Haryana). Kot Diji.
(b) Mature Harappan Phase (c. 2600 1900 B.C.) - It was the urban phase, the full -fledged stage of civilization. e.g. Harappa, Mohenjodaro, Lothal,Chanhudaro, Kalibangan.
(c) Late Harappan Phase (c.1900-1300 B.C.) - It was the post-urban phase, when the cities declined. eg. Kudwala (Cholistan), Bet Dwarka (Gujarat), Daimabad (Maharashtra).
Indus Valley Civilization (IVC) flourished around 2500 BC, which is often called the age of matured IVC. It forms the backbone of India as it is one of the major civilizations of the world.

- The Indus Valley Civilization was established around 3300 BC. It flourished between 2600 BC and 1900 BC (Mature Indus Valley Civilization). It started declining around 1900 BC and disappeared around 1400 BC.
- This is also called Harappan Civilization after the first city to be excavated, Harappa (Punjab, Pakistan).
- Pre-Harappan civilization has been found in Mehrgarh, Pakistan which shows the first evidence of cotton cultivation.
- Geographically, this civilization covered Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Western Uttar Pradesh. It extended from Sutkagengor (in Balochistan) in the West to Alamgirpur (Western UP) in the East; and from Mandu (Jammu) in the North to Daimabad (Ahmednagar, Maharashtra) in the South. Some Indus Valley sites have also been found as far away as Afghanistan and Turkmenistan.

Indus Valley Civilization Important Sites

- In India: Kalibangan (Rajasthan), Lothal, Dholavira, Rangpur, Surkotada (Gujarat), Banawali (Haryana), Ropar (Punjab). In Pakistan: Harappa (on river Ravi), Mohenjodaro (on Indus River in Sindh), Chanhudaro (in Sindh).
- The civilization was first discovered during an excavation campaign under Sir John Hubert Marshall in 1921-22 at Harappa following the discovery of seals by J Fleet.
- Harappan ruins were discovered by Marshall, Rai Bahadur Daya Ram Sahni and Madho Sarup Vats.
- Mohenjodaro ruins were excavated for the first time by R.D. Banerjee, E. J. H. MacKay and Marshall.
- The Indus Valley cities show a level of sophistication and advancement not seen in other contemporary civilizations.
- Most cities had similar patterns. There were two parts: a citadel and the lower town.
- Most cities had a Great Bath.
- There were also granaries, 2-storied houses made of burnt bricks, closed drainage lines, excellent stormwater, and wastewater management system, weights for measurements, toys, pots, etc.
- A large number of seals have been discovered.
- Agriculture was the most important occupation. The first civilization to cultivate cotton.
- Animals were domesticated like sheep, goats, and pigs.
- Crops were wheat, barley, cotton, ragi, dates, and peas.
- Trade was conducted with the Sumerians.
- Metal products were produced including those with copper, bronze, tin, and lead. Gold and silver were also known. Iron was not known to them.
- No structures like temples or palaces have been found.
- The people worshiped male and female deities. A seal which was named 'Pashupati Seal' has been excavated and it shows an image of a three-eyed figure. Marshall believed this to be an early form of Lord Shiva.
- Excellent pieces of red pottery designed in black have been excavated. Faience was used to make beads, bangles, earrings, and vessels.
- Civilization also was advanced in making artworks. A statuette named 'Dancing Girl' has been found from Mohenjodaro and is believed to be 4000 years old. A figure of a bearded Priest-King has also been found from Mohenjodaro.
- Lothal was a dockyard.
- Disposal of the dead was by burial in wooden coffins. Later on, in the H Symmetry culture, bodies were cremated in urns.
- The Indus Valley script has not yet been deciphered.

The decline of Indus Valley Civilization

- Causes of the decline of this civilization have not been firmly established. Archaeologists now believe

that the civilization did not come to an abrupt end but gradually declined. People moved eastwards and cities were abandoned. Writing and trade declined.

- Mortimer Wheeler suggested that the Aryan invasion led to the decline of the Indus Valley. This theory has now been debunked.
- Robert Raikes suggests that tectonic movements and floods caused the decline.
- Other causes cited include a drying up of the rivers, deforestation, and destruction of the green cover. It is possible that some cities were destroyed by floods but not all. It is now accepted that several factors could have led to the decline of the Indus Valley civilization.
- New cities emerged only about 1400 years later.

Indus Valley Civilization – Major Sites

What is Indus Valley Civilization?

The Indus valley civilization is also known as Harappan Civilization and is famous for its systematic planning based on the grid system.

The Indus Valley Civilization was a Bronze Age civilization spreading from today's North-East Afghanistan to Pakistan and North-West India. This civilization flourished in the river basins of the Indus and the Ghaggar-Hakra River.

There are seven important cities in the Indus valley civilization:

1. Mohenjo Daro
2. Harappa
3. Kalibangan
4. Lothal
5. Chanhudaro
6. Dholavira
7. Banawali

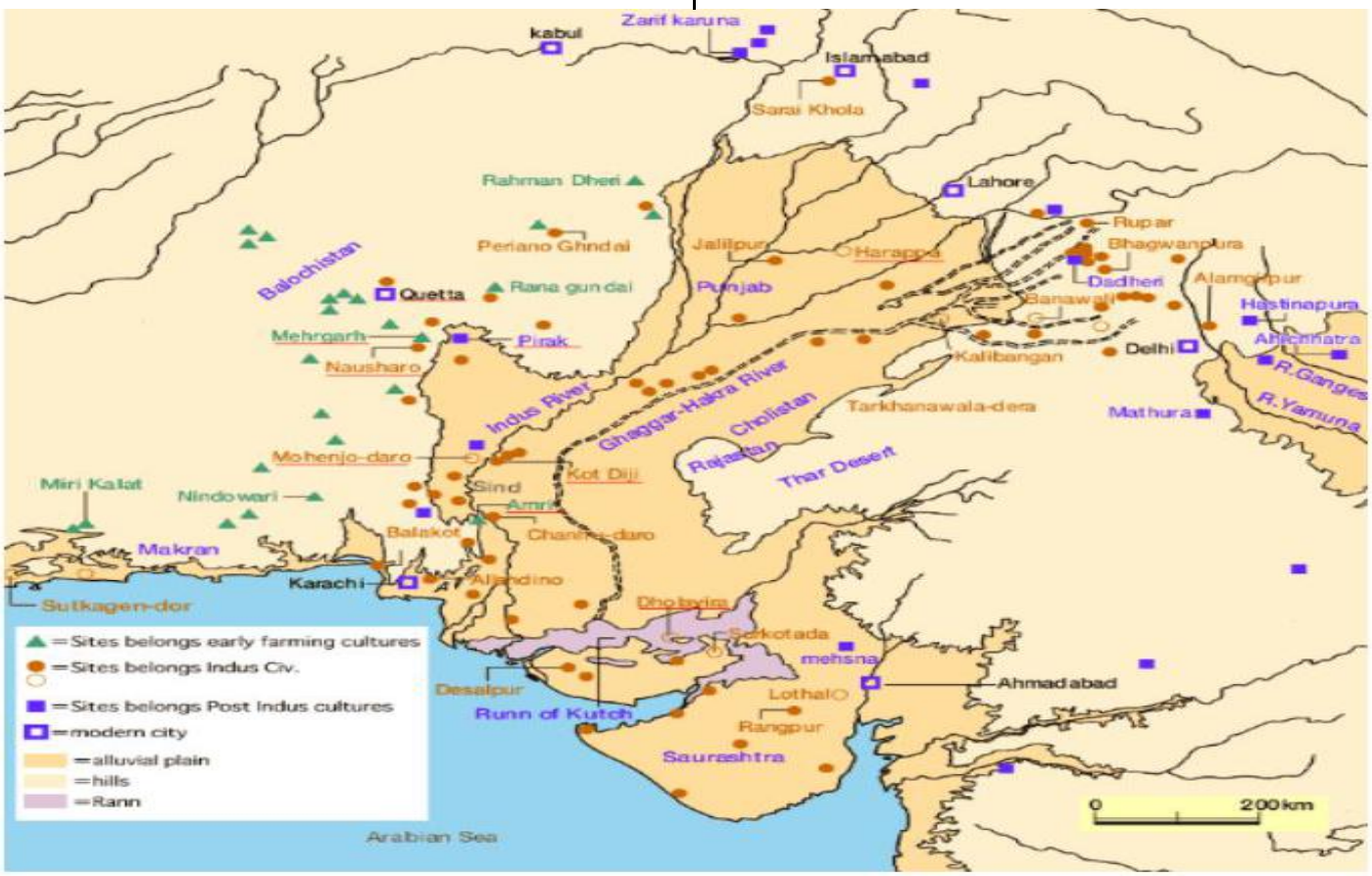
Surkotada, Lothal, and Dholavira are the important port towns in the Indus valley. Harappa, Mohenjo Daro, Banawali and Dholavira are considered as the four main Harappan Sites. Till 1999, over 1,056 urban areas and settlements had been found. 96 sites have been excavated, mostly in the region of the Indus and Ghaggar-Hakra Rivers and their tributaries. Among the settlements were the most important urban centers of Harappa, Mohenjodaro, Ganeriwala, Dholavira, and Rakhigarhi.

Major Sites of Indus Valley Civilization

Here we are giving the list of major sites in the Indus valley civilizations along with its location, major findings which are very useful for UPSC IAS Prelims examination.

Year	Site	Location	Excavated by	Major findings
1921	Harappa	Sahiwal District, Punjab in the banks of Ravi	Daya Ram Sahni	• Piece of Pottery with Indus Script • Cubical Limestone Weight • Faience Slag • Sandstone statues of Human anatomy • Copper Bullock cart • Granaries • Coffin burials (Only founded in Harappa) • Terracotta Figurines
1922	**Mohenjo-Daro**	**Larkana District Of Sind on the bank of Indus**	R. D Banerjee	• Great bath • Granary • Unicorn Seals (Most numbers of it in here) • Bronze dancing girl statue • Seal of a man with deers, elephants, tiger and rhinos around- Considered to be Pashupati Seal) • Steatite statue of beard man • Bronze buffalo

4. Most of the settlements are mostly located in the broad region of the Indus and Ghaggar-Hakra Rivers and their tributaries.
5. The major urban centers are Harappa, Mohenjodaro, Dholavira, Ganweriwala and Rakhigarhi.



9 Facts on Population of Indus Valley Civilization

1. The Population of Indus Valley Civilization was over 5 million
2. Most of the inhabitants of the civilisation were artisans and traders.
3. Majority of the population of Indus Valley Civilization lived in villages, it is not evident as the villages may have been constructed of destructible materials like mud or timber.
4. Hence, it is difficult to find out the lifestyle and culture in these villages which have been lost over a period of time without any trace.
5. The Indus Valley Civilization was a highly sophisticated civilisation with a much-organized way of living.
6. Despite being densely populated, the cities were not chaotic, unlike contemporary cities of Mesopotamia or Egypt.
7. Mohenjo-Daro, measuring an area of about 300 hectares, was the largest city.
8. Mohenjo-Daro might have had a 40000-strong population.
9. Allahdino was the smallest site in the Indus Valley Civilization.

5 Facts on Drainage System of Indus Valley Civilization

1. They had advanced sanitation systems.
2. People of the Indus Valley Civilization knew about and implemented channeling of water and the disposal of waste waterway before any other ancient civilization did.
3. Even the Romans built aqueducts thousands of years later.
4. So advanced was their water management system that they had separate channels lining the Harappan streets for wastewater and stormwater (rainwater).
5. The wastewater drains were underground, and had opening terracotta lids for cleaning purposes!

16 Facts on Town Planning of Indus Valley Civilization

1. World's first planned cities were found in the Indus Valley Civilization.
2. The cities of the civilisation were planned in grid patterns with streets crossing at right angles.

3. These marvels of urban planning were thousands of years older than the period of Hippodamus of Miletus, considered the 'father of European urban planning'.
4. The Indus Valley cities and towns had a rectangular grid pattern.
5. The main streets were along the North-South direction and the secondary streets were along the East-West direction.
6. The streets intersected at right angles. This precise pattern is believed to be owing to religious or astronomical beliefs.
7. Apart from being well-planned and having excellent drainage systems, the Harappan cities and towns were also standardized.
8. Almost all the places excavated are seen as having a similar structure and pattern.
9. Even the bricks of the houses had similar dimensions!
10. The streets found in Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa were as wide as 10.5 m.
11. The smaller roads were at least 1.5 m wide.
12. Archaeologists believe that the wide streets point out to market activities along with them.
13. Harappan streets were paved with burnt bricks to facilitate the easy movement of ox carts.
14. The cities of the Indus Valley Civilization had channels running along the streets for the disposal of drainage water.
15. The cities of the Indus Valley Civilization could be divided into distinct neighborhoods.
16. Each neighborhood had inhabitants who were engaged in a particular profession.

3 Facts on World's Oldest Signboard belonging to IVC

1. A board with stone symbols/letters over 30 cm in height in a wooden frame was discovered at Dholavira in 1999.
2. Archaeologists believe this was the world's first signboard!
3. It is thought to have been placed at the façade of the northern gate of the city's citadel.

3 Major Facts on Hygiene and Cleanliness in Indus Valley Civilization

Fact 1: Hygiene was Top Priority

1. The people of the Indus Valley Civilization led a very hygienic, clean and healthy life.

The excavations reveal this fact.

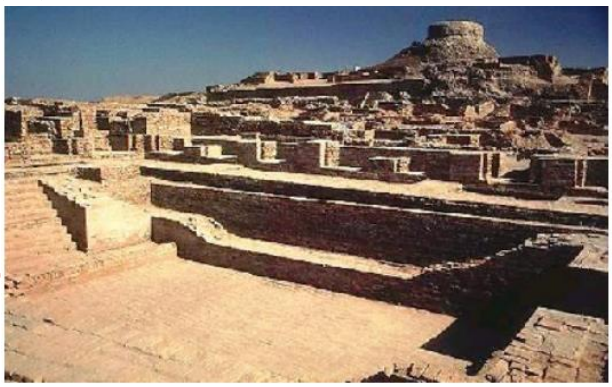
1. A large number of public baths, the excellent water management system, running water in every house, neat drainage systems and the underground wastewater systems all point out to the importance of hygiene in Harappan life.

Fact 2: Dustbins along the streets

1. Even in those ancient times, the Indus Valley Civilization was way ahead of its time in terms of civic sense.
2. There were dustbins placed along the streets in Mohenjo-Daro!
3. These were brick containers, especially for garbage disposal.

Fact 3: Every city had its own Great Bath

1. Every city in the civilisation had at least one Great Bath.
2. It is believed that they might have had a religious purpose.



(The Great Bath at Mohenjo-Daro, Sindh, Pakistan)

6 Major Facts about Religion in Indus Valley Civilization

1. Matridevi or Shakti is the Mother goddess
2. Yoni worship and Nature worship existed.
3. They worshiped trees like Peepal
4. They also worshiped Fire, called Havan Kund.
5. Pashupati Mahadeva is known as the lord of Animals
6. The people of Indus Valley Civilisation carried out Animal worship like Unicorn and ox.

No temples in the Indus Valley Civilization

1. Archaeologists haven't found any structure resembling a temple or a palace or any monument.
2. In fact, most other contemporary civilisations have some central monuments.
3. The absence of any palace or temple despite structures like granaries and public baths led historians to believe that the Indus Valley society was an egalitarian one.

10 Major Economic Facts of Indus Valley Civilization

1. Indus valley civilisation is based on agriculture
2. Trade and commerce flourished in this period.
3. The Mesopotamian (Sumerian) scribes in the Middle Bronze Age refer frequently to a place they call Meluhha. Meluhha was a prominent trading partner of the Sumerians and they imported timber and ebony in high volumes.
4. Sesame oil and luxury items like lapis lazuli were also imported from Meluhha, which was in all probability, the Indus Valley Civilization.
5. A dockyard has been found at Lothal.
6. There were exports and imports.
7. Production of cotton was there
8. 16 was the unit of measurement
9. Weights and measures existed in Harappan culture, and were seen at Lothal.
10. The weights were made of limestone, steatite, etc. and were usually cubical in shape.

Indus Valley Civilization were the world's earliest cotton cultivators

1. The earliest traces of cotton in the world were found here. The earliest evidence for the use of cotton was found in Mehrgarh dating back to the sixth millennium B.C.
2. The Indus Valley farmers were the first ones to spin and weave cotton.
3. Cotton was also one of the export items.

Indus Valley had large-scale maritime trade relations with other civilisations

1. Many port-cities have been unearthed which proves the existence of large-scale maritime trade relations with other civilisations.
2. Lothal could be the world's first dockyard.
3. Other ports include Allahdino, Suktagendor and Balakot.

Indus Valley Civilization had the world's first buttons

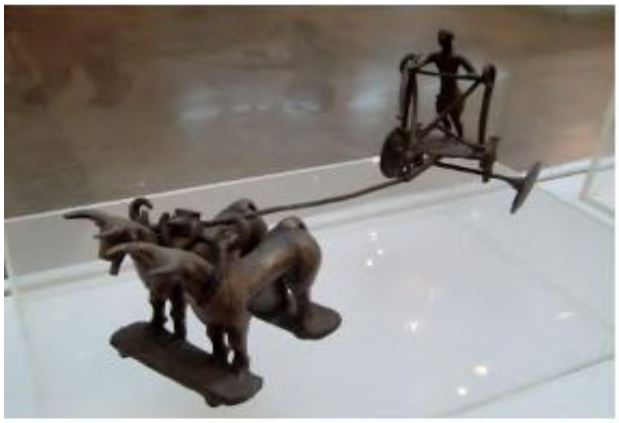
1. The world's first buttons were found here dating back to 2800 – 2600 B.C.
2. Buttons were made out of seashells and some of them had holes pierced in them for them to be attached to clothes with threads.
3. Buttons in the Indus Valley were used more for their ornamental value rather than for utility.

8 Major Facts about Society of Indus Valley Civilization

There were plenty of clues from the excavations to help us understand substantial information about the social life of inhabitants of Indus Valley Civilization.

The below table gives information on Social Facts of Indus Valley Civilization

Recreation activities	1. Hunting 2. Fishing 3. Clay modeling 4. Bullfighting
Family Bonding	1. There was a very strong family bonding 2. Children were taught the art of crafts making by their parents.
Household Decorations and Tools	1. Household decoration articles were either made of metals like Copper and Bronze or the decoration articles were made of pottery. 2. Chairs were used.
Kitchen Utensils	1. The utensils used were jars, dishes, vessels etc. 2. The above items were made of earth and stone.



4 Facts on Precise Measurement Systems in The Indus Valley Civilization

1. Stone cubes have been excavated from the sites of this civilization. Archaeologists believe them to be weighted for measurement.
2. These weights increase in a ratio of 5:2:1. They had weights of 0.05, 0.1, 0.2, 0.5, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, and 500 units.
3. They are different from the system of measurement of Egypt and Mesopotamia of that time, so it can be concluded that this system was developed indigenously.
4. The smallest division on a marking on an ivory scale was around 1.704 mm found in Lothal, Gujarat. This is the smallest recorded division found from the Bronze Age.

9 Major General Facts of Indus Valley Civilization

Fact 1: The oldest Indus Valley settlement was established around 7000 B.C.

1. Mehrgarh is the oldest known settlement dating back to around 7000 B.C.
2. It began during the Pre-Harappan period.
3. Mehrgarh was a farming village.

Fact 2: Over 4000 seals have been found from the sites

1. These seals are small, rectangular stone slabs with inscriptions on them.
2. They also have images of animals and other figures on them.
3. The use of these seals is uncertain.

Fact 3: The city of Mohenjo-Daro was built at least 9 times

1. Many of the cities of this civilization were destroyed several times by flood, deposition of silts, etc.
2. Each time they were rebuilt.
3. What is amazing is that every time they rebuilt the cities, they employed the same grid pattern.
4. Mohenjo-Daro was constructed nine times and each time on top of the earlier grid.
5. This shows the sophistication in their urban planning.

Fact 4: The Indus Valley Civilization even had dentists among them

1. In 2006, Nature journal declared that the first evidence of drilling of the human teeth in a live person was found in Mehrgarh, present Pakistan.
2. This discovery was done in 2001 when eleven drilled molar crowns were unearthed from a Neolithic grave in Mehrgarh dating between 5500 B.C. and 7000 B.C.
3. This remarkable discovery shows that people of the Indus Valley Civilization had knowledge of proto-dentistry.

Fact 5: The Indus Valley Script has still Not Been Deciphered

1. One of the reasons we don't know much about this civilization is that their script has not yet been deciphered.
2. Around 400 different symbols have been identified inscribed in objects.
3. They appear in strings of between 3 and 20.
4. Historians believe they are probably names and don't have any other meaning.

Fact 6: No Depiction of any King or Ruler

1. Despite having an organized way of life, there is no depiction or evidence of any ruler or any governing system for the Harappan civilisation.
2. The closest depiction to any kind of a central figure is a terracotta sculpture believed to be that of a priest-king.

- Indian Culture began to reach Thailand by Indian Traders, teachers and missionaries. Sanskrit names were given to Thai Kingdoms such as Dwaravati, Shri Vijay, sukhodaya and Ayutthiya. Even the street names such as Rajaram, Rajarani, Mahajaya remind of Ramayana. In the capital city of Thailand, Bangkok has 400 and more temples.
- Indian Culture was carried to the distant land of Vietnam by traders and princes who migrated and established themselves as pioneers in the field of politics and economics in Vietnam and Cambodia.
- Indian Culture also traveled to Indonesia.

The main three towers of the 9th century Prambanan Trimurti temple complex, the largest Hindu temple site in Indonesia.

- Prambanan is the largest Shiva Temple built in Indonesia's Island of Java. The stories of Ramayana and Krishna were carved on the walls of the temples.
- India's links with West Asia by land as well as sea route goes back to ancient times. The ties between the two-culture zones became close with the rising and spread of Islamic Civilizations in West Asia. Indian contributions to Arab civilization was Mathematics as the Arabs acknowledged their debt to India by calling Mathematics "Hindisa". A number of Arab sources dating back to the tenth and thirteenth century inform us about Indian work on medicine and therapeutics.
- Southern India had the monopoly of the products that were in great demand in the west represented mainly by the Roman Empire which became India's best customer. Items like pepper, betel, spices, scents and precious stones like beryl, gem, diamond, ruby, pearls, ivory, silk and muslins were in great demand.
- Trade thus became a very important mode that helped in the spread of Indian Culture abroad. Indian ships sailed across the seas and reached foreign shores to establish commercial ties with several countries. The Literature, Art and sculpture of the neighboring countries clearly show the influence of Indian Culture and Civilization.

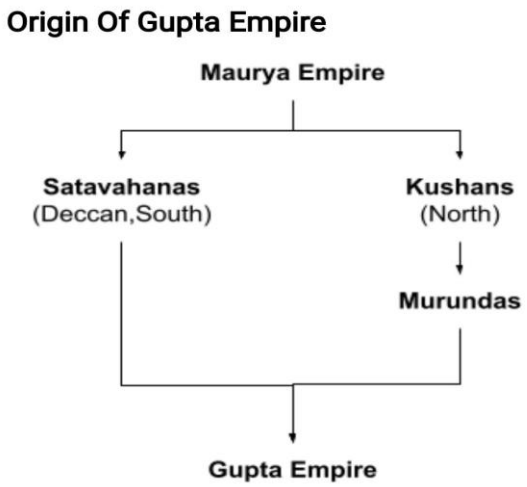
CHAPTER - 10

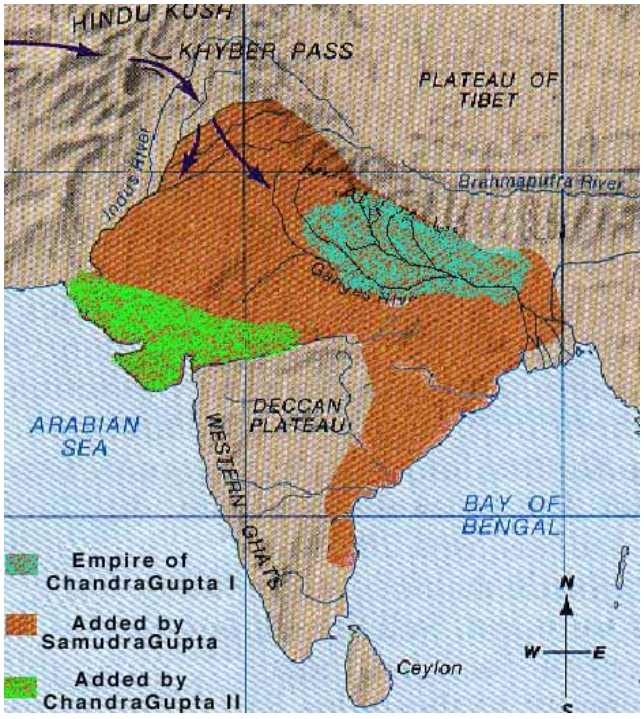
GUPTA EMPIRE

In Ancient India, the Gupta Dynasty ruled the mid-to-late 3rd century (approximately) to 543 AD. Founded by Sri Gupta, the dynasty rose to fame with rulers like Chandragupta-I, Samudragupta, etc.

The period of the Gupta Empire is popularly known as the "Golden Age of India". It is because of the widespread research and development in science, engineering & technology, art, literature, logic, mathematics, astronomy, religion and philosophy that illuminated the elements of Hindu culture.The prosperity under the Guptas initiated a period of splendid accomplishments in arts and sciences. The Gupta Empire lasted from 320 CE to 550 CE.

Origin of Gupta Empire





The decline of the Mauryan empire resulted in the rise of two major political powers – the Kushanas and the Satavahanas in the north and south respectively. Both these empires brought political unity and economic growth in their respective areas. The Kushan reign in north India came to an end around c.230 CE and then a good part of central India came under the domain of the Murundas (possible kinsmen of the Kushanas).

The Murundas ruled for only 25 – 30 years. Around the last decade of the 3rd century CE (about 275 CE), the dynasty of the Guptas came to power. The Gupta empire established its control over a good part of the former dominions of both the Kushanas and the Satavahanas. The Guptas (possibly Vaishyas) kept northern India politically united for more than a century (335 CE- 455 CE).

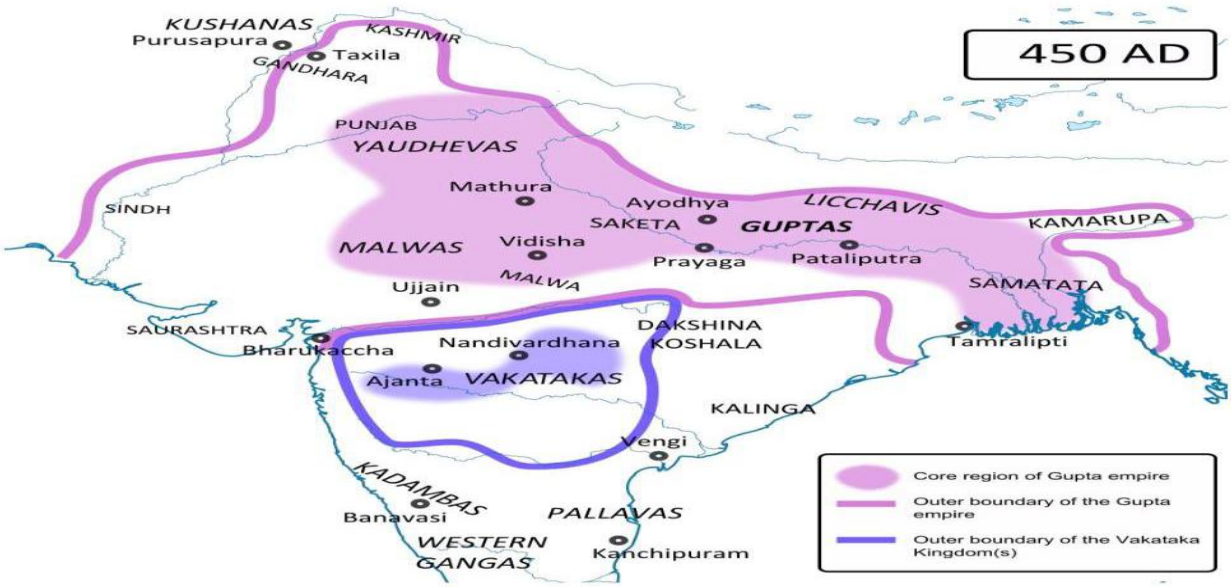
- The Guptas are believed to have been feudatories of the Kushanas.
- The original kingdom of the Guptas comprised Uttar Pradesh and Bihar with their centre of power at Prayag (U.P).
- The Guptas set up their rule over the fertile plains of the Madhyadesha, also known as Anuganga (the middle Gangetic basin), Saketa (U.P Ayodhya), Prayag (U.P) and Magadha (mostly Bihar).
- The Guptas made good use of the iron ore reserves in central India and south Bihar and also took advantage of their proximity to the areas in north India which carried on silk trade with the Byzantine empire (eastern Roman empire).
- The Gupta period in ancient India is referred to as the "Golden Age" because of the numerous achievements in the field of arts, literature, science and technology. It also brought about the political unification of the subcontinent.

Beginning of Gupta Empire

- The Gupta empire was founded by Sri Gupta. He was then succeeded by Ghatotkacha.
- They came into power in around 275 AD.
- The Gupta empire rose to prominence in Magadha around 320 AD and covered large parts of northern India and smaller parts of southern India.
- They ruled for more than about 200 years.
- The earlier homeland of the family of Guptas are not known for certain. But they might have originated from Bengal. Some researchers claim that they come from Prayaga (Allahabad in UP).
- It is assumed that they are either Brahmins or Vaishyas.

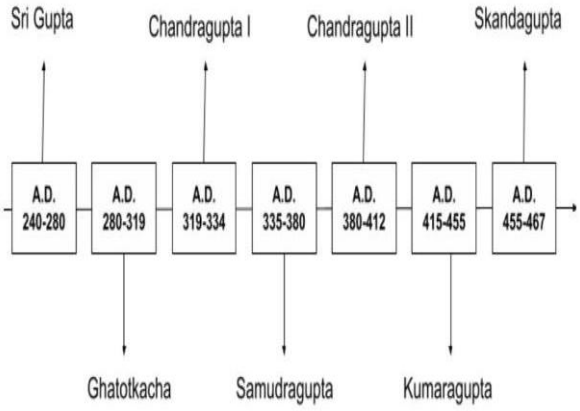
Material Advantages Of Gupta Empire

- The fertile land of Madhyadesha which covered Bihar and Uttar Pradesh was their center of operation.
- The iron ore reserves of central India and South Bihar were possibly exploited by them.
- The proximity to the areas in North India were taken advantage of by them and carried out silk trade with the Eastern Roman empire (Byzantine empire).
- The Gupta empire originally comprised Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. However Uttar Pradesh seems to have been their operating place with a center of power at Prayag. Due to these favourable factors, the Guptas set up their rule over Anuganga (the middle Gangetic basin), Magadha, Saketa (Ayodhya, U.P) and Prayag (Modern Allahabad).



Chronology Of Gupta Empire

Beginning with Sri Gupta, over the period of 200 years the Gupta empire reached its prominence until the reign of Skandagupta, after which the weak rulers of the Gupta dynasty reigned and eventually led to the decline of the empire.



Gupta Empire – Kings

A brief about the kings of the Gupta dynasty is given in the table below:

Gupta Dynasty Kings	Facts about Gupta Kings
Sri Gupta	• Founder of Gupta Dynasty • Reign from 240 CE to 280 CE • Used the title of 'Maharaja'
Ghatotkacha	• Reigned from 319 CE to 335/336 CE • Started the Gupta Era • He assumed the title of 'Maharajadhiraja' • Married Licchavi princess Kumaradevi
Samudragupta	• Reigned from 335/336 CE to 375 CE • Called 'Napoleon of India' by V.A. Smith (Irish Indologist and Art Historian) • His campaigns are mentioned in the Eran inscription (Madhya Pradesh)
Chandragupta II	• Reigned from 376-413/415 CE • Navratnas (9 Gems in his Court) • Took the title 'Vikramaditya'
Kumaragupta I	• Reigned from 415 CE to 455 CE • Founded Nalanda University • He was also called Shakraditya
Skandagupta	• Reigned from 455 AD – 467 AD • Was a 'Vaishnavite' • Son of Kumaragupta • Repulsed an attack by the Hunas but this strained his empire's coffers.
Vishnugupta	• Last known ruler of the Gupta Dynasty (540 AD – 550 AD)

Summary on Sufi Movement in India

- Synthesises variety of ideas and practices from Hinduism, Christianity, Buddhism and Zoroastrianism.
- It aimed at service of mankind through spiritual self development
- Eager for Hindu-Muslim unity and cultural synthesis
- Opposed to orthodoxy preached faith and devotion to God.
- Opposes the materialistic life but not in favour of complete renunciation.
- Organised in different orders (Silsilas)
- The Sufi orders were divided into two: Ba-shara those who followed the Islamic law; and Be-shara those who were not bound by Islamic law.

Sufism is the mystical movement against orthodox practice in Islam with an aim to adhere the direct perception of mankind to God without any mediator.

Summary

The coming of the Turks to the Indian sub-continent led to a revamp of culture, religion, architecture and almost all fields of life. This was due to the two strongly established religious views that confluence here. The strong Islamic views of the Turks combined with the established Hinduism culture already prevalent in India. Both Sufism and Bhakti cult were out-of-the-box thoughts on religion. They were mainly against the common religious views, and most importantly, they both were strongly against the caste system.

CHAPTER - 14

THE MUGHAL EMPIRE

Mughal Empire was the largest empire in Indian history in terms of **administrative innovations, military power, economic prosperity** and **political expansion**.

The Mughal Dynasty

From the latter half of the 16th century, they expanded their kingdom from Agra and Delhi until in the 17th century they controlled nearly all of the subcontinent.

They imposed structures of administration and ideas of governance that outlasted their rule, leaving a political legacy that succeeding rulers of the subcontinent could not ignore.

The Mughal reign was a crucial phase in Indian History. This article throws light on the Mughal era in India like Economic & Social Life, Agriculture, Trade Growth, etc.

MUGHAL PERIOD (1526-40 and 1555-1857)

The Mughals were descendants of two great lineages of rulers. Babur: founder of the Mughal Empire in India was related to Timur from his father's side and to Chengiz Khan through his mother.

Babur succeeded his father as the ruler of Farghana (Uzbekistan), but soon lost his kingdom.

Financial difficulties, apprehension of the Uzbek attack on Kabul and the invitation of Rana Sanga to invade India forced Babur to look towards India.

Babar traced his lineage from Timur (father's side) who founded the Timurid Empire and so, Mughal Empire was also known as the **Timurids** and he also claimed his line it from **Changez Khan** (from the mother side).

Mangal + Turkey = Mughals (means Brave)

Who were the Mughals?

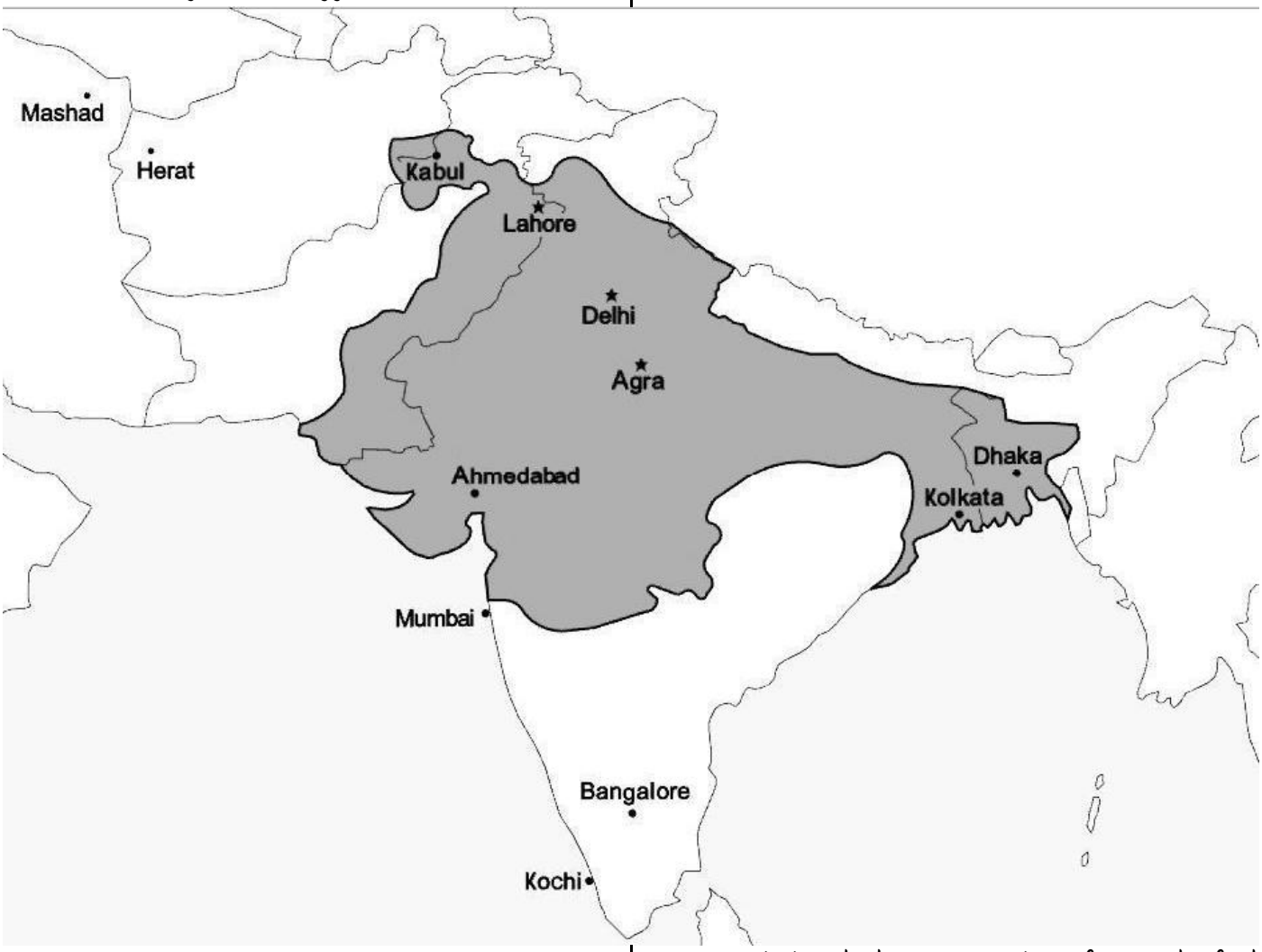
The Mughals were a foreign invader within India, and their lineage can be traced back to the Timurid Empire that existed in central Asia. The founder of the Mughal Dynasty was a man named Babur, who was a descendent of Timur. He invaded India and founded his dynasty in the year 1526. Subsequent Mughal Rulers would then greatly expand the empire. The Mughals were Muslims, and they built dozens of mosques in an effort to help the spread of Islam.

Today much of the Islamic population living within India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh can be traced back to the days of the Mughals.

The Founding of the Mughal Empire

The young prince Babur, who was descended from Timur on his father's side and Genghis Khan on his mother's, finished his conquest of northern India in 1526, defeating the Delhi Sultan Ibrahim Shah Lodi at the First Battle of Panipat. Babur was a refugee from the fierce dynastic struggles in Central Asia; his uncles and other warlords had repeatedly denied him rule over the Silk Road cities of Samarkand and Fergana, his birthright. Babur was able to establish a base in Kabul, though, from which he turned south and conquered much of the Indian subcontinent. Babur called his dynasty "Timurid," but it is better known as the Mughal Dynasty—a Persian rendering of the word "Mongol."

History of the Mughal Empire



Approximate Borders of the Mughal Empire during the reign of Akbar (1556-1605)

There are three main emperors whose rules illustrate the rise and fall of the Mughal empire. The first is Akbar, the son of the founder of the Mughal Dynasty **Babur**. **Akbar** ruled for nearly 50 years from **1556-1605**. He was a conqueror and significantly grew the size of the empire. Akbar was known as a tolerant ruler who accepted all faiths including Hinduism, and Jainism. Akbar was a great patron of the arts and of academics. He commissioned the construction of several of the greatest works of Mughal Military Architecture.

Shah Jahan was the famous Mughal Emperor who built the Taj Mahal. He ruled from **1628-1658** during a period that was a cultural peak for the Mughal Empire. The Taj Mahal's fine detailing and extravagant materials show how powerful the Mughals were at this time. While the Taj Mahal may be the most well-known example, there are countless other works of Mughal Architecture that can be found throughout India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.

- The major imports into India were certain metals such as
  - tin and copper
  - warhorses and
  - luxury items such as ivory
- The import of gold and silver balanced of trade.
- In the seventeenth century, the growth of foreign trade resulted in the increased import of gold and silver.

Cultural Development under the Mughals

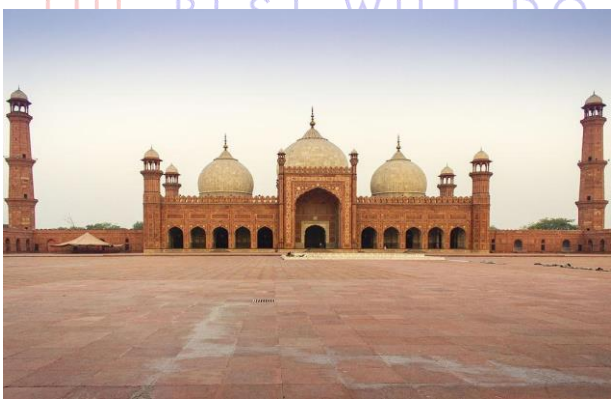
- The Mughal period witnessed a significant and widespread development in cultural activity.
- It was evident in the sphere of art and architecture, painting, music and literature.
- The Mughals brought Turko-Iranian culture into India and the Indian traditions were blended Turko-Iranian culture.

Art and Architecture

- The Mughals were fond of laying gardens with running water. Some of the Mughal Gardens are:
  - Nishat Bagh in Kashmir
  - the Shalimar Bagh at Lahore
  - the Pinjore garden in Punjab
- During the reign of Sher Shah, the mausoleum at Sasaram in Bihar and the Purana Qila near Delhi were built.
- Large scale construction of buildings started with the dawn of Akbar
- He built many forts and the most famous one was the Agra Fort. It was built in red sandstone.
- His other forts are at Lahore and Allahabad.
- Shah Jahan built the famous Red Fort at Delhi with its Rang Mahal, Diwan-i-Am and Diwan-i-Khaswas
- Akbar also built a palace cum fort complex at Fatehpur Sikri (City of Victory).
- Many buildings in Gujarati and Bengali styles are also found in this complex.
- Gujarati style buildings were probably built for his Rajput wives.
- The most magnificent building in it is the Jama Masjid and the gateway to it called Buland Darwaza or the Lofty Gate.
- The height of the gateway is 176 feet. It was built to commemorate Akbar's victory over Gujarat.
- Other important buildings at Fatehpur Sikri are Jodha Bai's palace and Panch Mahal with five storeys.
- During Akbar's reign, the Humayun's tomb was built at Delhi and it had a massive dome of marble.
- It may be considered the precursor of the Taj Mahal.
- Akbar's tomb at Sikandra near Agra was completed by Jahangir.
- Nur Jahan built the tomb of Itmad Daulah at Agra.
- It was constructed wholly of white marble with floral designs made of semi-precious stones on the walls. (Pietra dura)
- This method became more popular during the reign of Shah Jahan.
- Taj Mahal
  - The Pietra Dura method was used on a large scale in the Taj Mahal.
  - Taj Mahal is considered as the jewel of the builder's art.
  - It contains all the architectural forms developed by the Mughals.
  - The chief glory of the Taj is the massive dome and the four slender minarets
  - The decorations are kept to the minimum.
- The Moti Masjid at Agra was built entirely in white marble. The Jama Masjid at Delhi was built in red stone.

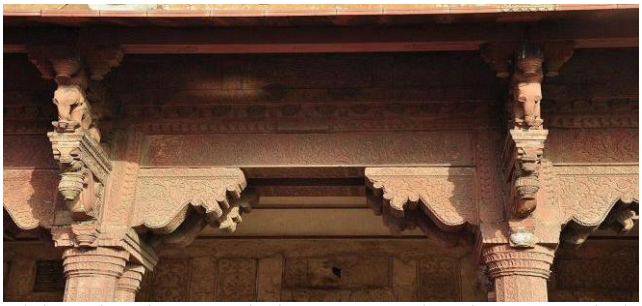
Characteristics of Mughal Architecture

Islamic Influences



In nearly all works of Mughal Architecture we can see a heavy Islamic Influence. Islamic building elements such as pointed arches, Muqarnas, Minarets, and domes can be found throughout the buildings of the Mughal Empire. In the above image of the Badshahi Mosque in Lahore Pakistan, you can see several of these characteristics. The towering minarets were a high point where individuals would chant the Islamic Call to Prayer. The Mosque is also built with three Onion Domes, a characteristic found in older works of Persian and Timurid Architecture.

Hindu Influences



Although the Mughals practiced Islam, Mughal Architecture utilizes many elements from Hindu Temples. Hinduism was the dominant religion in the heart of India long before the arrival of the Mughals, and today roughly 80% of India identifies as Hindu. In the above image at the Lahore Fort in Pakistan, you can see ornately decorated column capitals that feature Indian elephants. The elephant was a symbol in many of India's ancient religions, and it blends in perfectly with the other Islamic Architectural elements that can be found within the Lahore Fort.

Red Sandstone

Another element that can be found throughout the Architecture of the Mughal Empire is the use of Red Sandstone. This particular sandstone was abundant in parts of the empire, and the distinct reddish hue of the stone can be found in several iconic buildings such as the aptly named Red Fort. The image above shows one of several monumental gateways into the Red Fort, each one decorated with carved pieces of sandstone. The building material is also found in the Agra Fort, the Jama Masjid, and in the outer buildings of the Taj Mahal complex.

Stone Inlays

Many of the finer works of Mughal Architecture contain intricate stone inlays. The use of Stone Inlays is a common ornamentation technique that has been around since ancient times. It saw a particular resurgence from the 16th to the 19th centuries. In Europe, it is often referred to as Pietra dura, which is an Italian term used for a craft that gained popularity in the Renaissance. In India, the art is known as Parchin Kari, and the Taj Majal contains the finest examples of it. Here you can see Arabic Script in a border surrounding another inlay of flowers and vines. The rich colors of the stones are part of what gives the Taj Mahal its distinct appearance.

Fortifications

Fortifications, along with mosques and tombs, are some of the most impressive forms of architecture built by the Mughals. Just like countless other empires that have ruled in the past, the Mughals had to build forts and castles as a way to help protect their conquered lands. Several massive Mughal forts were built in a vast defensive network. These include the Red Fort, the Lahore Fort, and the Agra Fort among others. In the image above of the Agra Fort, you can see how it's built with thick sandstone walls that were once outfitted with numerous cannons.

The best examples of Mughal Architecture

The Mughal Empire dominated their territory from the early 1500s to the early 1700s, and in that time they built countless mosques, forts, mausoleums, and other buildings. Below is a list of some of the greatest examples of Mughal Architecture and a look at the origins and history of the Mughal Empire.

- Taj Mahal – Agra, Uttar Pradesh, India
- Red Fort – Old Delhi, Delhi, India
- Badshahi Mosque – Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan

Mahal, died during the birth of their 14th child. The emperor went into deep mourning and was not seen in public for a year.

As an expression of his love, Shah Jahan commissioned the building of a magnificent tomb for his dear wife. Designed by the Persian architect Ustad Ahmad Lahauri, and constructed of white marble, the Taj Mahal is considered the crowning achievement of Mughal architecture.

Six major rulers of this dynasty, Babur, Humayun, Akbar, Jahangir, Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb, known as the "Great Mughals", left their mark on Indian history. The empire declined after the death of Aurangzeb in 1707.

- Zaheeruddin Mohammad Babur(1526-30AD)
- Nasiruddin Mohammad Humayn (1530-1540; 1555-56)
- Sher Shah Suri(1540-55)
- Humayun (1555-1556)
- Akbar(1556-1605)
- Jahangir(1605-1627)
- Shah Jahan(1627-1658)
- Aurangazeb(1657-1707)

BABUR (1526-1530 AD)

The Founder of Mughal Empire

Babur (Persian: "Tiger") (14 February 1483– 26 December 1530), born as Zahīr ud-Dīn Muhammad, was the founder of the Mughal Empire in the Indian subcontinent. He was a descendant of Timur and Genghis Khan through his father and mother respectively. He was also given the posthumous name of Firdaws Makani ('Dwelling in Paradise').

Considered as one of the finest Mughal emperors, Babur succeeded in securing the dynasty's position in Delhi after a series of sultanates failed to consolidate their seats and his empire went on to rule for over 300 years in India.

He established himself first in Kabul (c. 1504 CE) and then moved from Afghanistan into India through the Khyber Pass. Babur conquered the powerful fort of Bhira (c. 1519– 1520 CE), Sialkot (c. 1520 CE) and Lahore in Punjab. The main reason why Babur coveted the Punjab parganas was the meagre income of Kabul, which was insufficient to maintain an empire. He was also apprehensive of an Uzbek attack on Kabul and considered India to be a good place of refuge and a suitable base for operations against the Uzbeks. The unstable political situation after the death of Sikander Lodhi in c. 1517 CE further helped his entry into India.

It is believed that Babur was invited to fight against Ibrahim Lodhi (son of Sikander Lodhi) by Daulat Khan Lodhi (governor of Punjab), Rana Sanga of Mewar and Alam

Khan (uncle of Ibrahim Lodhi). They convinced Babur that the time was ripe for the conquest of the whole of Punjab.

- He was born on 14th February, 1483 AD in Farghana and his original name was Zahiruddin Muhammad Babar.
- He wrote his autobiography Tuzuk-i-Baburi /Baburnama (Abdur Rahim Khan -i- khanan translated into Persian) in Chaghatay Turkish language.
- He introduced Char - Bhaga and built two mosques ,one at Panipat and other at Sambhat (Rohilkhand).
- Babur was invited by Daulat Khan Lodi, a rebel of the Lodi dynasty, in 1524, to invade North India and fight the dynasty and their enemies in Rajputana. Rajputana was ruled by a Hindu Rajput confederacy, led by Mewar king Rana Sanga.
- He fought a major battle , First Battle of Panipat (20 April , 1526 AD) – Babur decisively defeated Ibrahim Lodhi. Babur took control of areas like Delhi , Agra and the possession of rich treasures of Lodhi. It Replaced the Lodhi and established the Mughal era in India

  This was one of the earliest battles in India involving gunpowder, firearms, and field artillery. In India , gunpowder had been gradually developed.

The First Battle of Panipat (c. 1526 CE)

- The Battle of Panipat is considered one of the decisive battles of Indian history and it was fought between Babur and Ibrahim Lodhi.
- It broke the back of Lodhi power and brought under Babur's control the entire region up to Delhi and Agra.

- He also got the rich treasures stored by Ibrahim Lodhi at Agra.
- In this battle, Babur's army was numerically inferior. Ibrahim Lodhi's army consisted of 100,000 men and 1000 elephants.
- Babur had crossed the Indus with an army of only 12000 soldiers. However, the military tactics were efficient and bore results.
- Babur used the Ottoman (Rumi) method of warfare, wherein he encircled Lodhi's army from both flanks.
  - From the centre, his cavalry mounted an attack with arrows and gunners under expert Ottoman gunners– Ustad Ali and Mustafa, whereas the trenches and barricades provided ample defense against the march of the enemy.
- After emerging victorious at the battle of Panipat, Babur proclaimed himself as the 'Emperor of Hindustan'.
- After the battle of Panipat, Babur had to face many difficulties. His nobles and commanders were not prepared for a long campaign in India. They wanted to return to Central Asia and the hot climate of India added to their misery.
- Babur's decision to stay on in India completely changed the situation and he invited the hostility of Rana Sanga. The Rana had expected Babur to return to Kabul and his decision to stay in India was a big jolt to Rana Sanga's territorial ambitions. Thus, the battle between the two became inevitable.

Battle of Khanwa (c. 1527 CE)

- This fierce battle was fought between Babur and Rana Sanga of Mewar and his allies, near Fatehpur Sikri.
- Many Afghans, including Mahmud Lodhi, the younger brother of Ibrahim Lodhi, supported Rana Sangha.
- He also got support from a large number of Rajput chiefs, of which prominent were the Rajputs of Jalore, Dungarpur, Amber and Sirohi along with Raja Medini Rai of Chanderi in Malwa and Hasan Khan of Mewat.
- Babur declared the war against Sanga to be a jihad.
- Rana Sanga, one of the most valiant warriors of Rajasthan, was defeated and thus, the Battle of Khanwa secured Babur's position in the Delhi-Agra region.
- After his victory, he adopted the title of Ghazi. He strengthened his position further by capturing a chain of forts in Gwalior, Dholpur and east of Agra. He also annexed large parts of Alwar from Hasan Khan Mewati.

Battle of Chanderi (c. 1528 CE)

- Babur led a campaign against Medini Rai of Chanderi in Malwa.
- Chanderi was captured with ease and with this defeat, the resistance across Rajputana was completely shattered.
- Babur had to cut short his plan of further campaigns due to the growing activities of the Afghans in eastern Uttar Pradesh.

Battle of Ghagra (c. 1529 CE)

- This battle was fought between Babur and the Afghans near Bihar.
- The Afghans fought under the leadership of Mahmud Lodhi, a younger brother of Ibrahim Lodhi, and were also backed by Nusrat Shah, the ruler of Bengal.
- Babur faced the combined forces of the Afghans and Nusrat Shah of Bengal at the crossing of the river Ghagra.
- Although Babur crossed the river and made the Afghan and Bengal forces retreat, he could not win a decisive victory.
- Soon afterwards Babur died in c. 1530 CE at the age of 47 in Agra while on his way to Kabul. He was buried in Arambagh in Agra and later his body was taken to Kabul.

Babur's Military Conquests

- In 1504, Babur occupied Kabul.
- In 1524, Babur occupied Lahore but had to retreat to Kabul after Daulat Khan turned against him.
- In November 1525, Babur attacked and occupied Punjab again.
- On 21st April 1526, Babur defeated Ibrahim Lodi in the First Battle of Panipat and quickly occupied Delhi and Despite vast and superior troop Ibrahim Lodi lost in the battle due to Babur's superior strategy and use of artillery.
- The First Battle of Panipat marked the foundation of Mughal dominion in India.
- Babur conquered Delhi and sent his son Humayun to seize Agra.
- Babur announced himself as "Emperor of Hindustan".

प्रिय दोस्तों, अब तक हमारे नोट्स में से विभिन्न परीक्षाओं में आये हुए प्रश्नों के परिणाम देखने के लिए क्लिक करें - (Proof Video Link)

RAS PRE. 2021 - https://shorturl.at/qBJ18 (74 प्रश्न , 150 में से)

RAS Pre 2023 - https://shorturl.at/tGHRT (96 प्रश्न , 150 में से)

UP Police Constable 2024 - http://surl.li/rbfyn (98 प्रश्न , 150 में से)

Rajasthan CET Gradu. Level - https://youtu.be/gPqDNlc6UR0

Rajasthan CET 12th Level - https://youtu.be/oCa-CoTFu4A

RPSC EO / RO - https://youtu.be/b9PKjl4nSxE

VDO PRE. - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gXdAk8S6W18&t=202s

Patwari - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X6mKGdtXyu4&t=2s

PTI 3rd grade - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iA_MemKKgEk&t=5s

SSC GD - 2021 - https://youtu.be/2gzzfJyt6vI

EXAM (परीक्षा)	DATE	हमारे नोट्स में से आये हुए प्रश्नों की संख्या
MPPSC Prelims 2023	17 दिसम्बर	63 प्रश्न (100 में से)
RAS PRE. 2021	27 अक्तूबर	74 प्रश्न आये
RAS Mains 2021	October 2021	52% प्रश्न आये

FREE SAMPLE

RAS Pre. 2023	01 अक्टूबर 2023	96 प्रश्न (150 मेंसे)
SSC GD 2021	16 नवम्बर	68 (100 में से)
SSC GD 2021	08 दिसम्बर	67 (100 में से)
RPSC EO/RO	14 मई (1st Shift)	95 (120 में से)
राजस्थान S.I. 2021	14 सितम्बर	119 (200 में से)
राजस्थान S.I. 2021	15 सितम्बर	126 (200 में से)
RAJASTHAN PATWARI 2021	23 अक्तूबर (1st शिफ्ट)	79 (150 में से)
RAJASTHAN PATWARI 2021	23 अक्तूबर (2nd शिफ्ट)	103 (150 में से)
RAJASTHAN PATWARI 2021	24 अक्तूबर (2nd शिफ्ट)	91 (150 में से)
RAJASTHAN VDO 2021	27 दिसंबर (1st शिफ्ट)	59 (100 में से)
RAJASTHAN VDO 2021	27 दिसंबर (2nd शिफ्ट)	61 (100 में से)
RAJASTHAN VDO 2021	28 दिसंबर (2nd शिफ्ट)	57 (100 में से)
U.P. SI 2021	14 नवम्बर 2021 1st शिफ्ट	91 (160 में से)
U.P. SI 2021	21नवम्बर2021 (1st शिफ्ट)	89 (160 में से)
Raj. CET Graduation level	07 January 2023 (1st शिफ्ट)	96 (150 में से)
Raj. CET 12th level	04 February 2023 (1st शिफ्ट)	98 (150 में से)
UP Police Constable	17 February 2024 (1st शिफ्ट)	98 (150 में से)

& Many More Exams like UPSC, SSC, Bank Etc.

FREE SAMPLE